

The “EYE”

*July > August >
September*

Summer Safety



Summer is a time for fun in the sun. Children are out of school and adults are on vacation enjoying outdoor activities like riding bikes, swimming at the lake or a pool, boating, camping and barbecuing. Summer is also a time when we're most likely to visit a hospital emergency room for treatment of injuries received while involved in outdoor activities. The following safety tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Red Cross and U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission should help you and your family enjoy a safe summer:

Bicycle Safety

Wear a helmet on every ride, no matter how short or how close to home. Many accidents happen in driveways, on sidewalks, and on bike paths, not just in the street. When purchasing a bike helmet make sure that it is correctly fitted and is marked with a sticker stating that it meets the CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) Standard. Studies show that bicycle helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by as much as 85%. Skateboarders and scooter-riders should also wear helmet. If you intend to buy your child a bike take the child with you when you shop for the bike so that he or she can try it out. Don't buy a bike your child has to "grow into." Oversized bikes are especially dangerous. Stick with coaster (foot) brakes until your child's bike riding skills reach the point where they can operate hand brakes safely.

Grilling Safety

Before firing up your gas grill check the air tubes that lead into the burners for any blockage from insects, spiders or food grease. Inspect the gas line hoses for cracks, brittleness, holes and leaks. If you detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas at the tank and don't attempt to light the grill until the leak is fixed. Don't use a gas or charcoal grill near a combustible surface (your house); and, never use a charcoal grill indoors. Burning charcoal produces deadly carbon monoxide.

Playground Safety

Falls cause 60% of playground injuries, so having a safe surface is critical. Use at least 9" of wood chips, mulch, or shredded rubber for play equipment up to 7' high. If sand or pea gravel is used, install at least a 9" layer for equipment up to 5' high. Swing seats should be made out of soft materials such as rubber, plastic or canvas. Never attach, or allow children to attach, ropes, leashes, jump ropes, or similar items to play equipment, as children can strangle on these items. Parents should supervise children on play equipment to make sure they are safe.

Pool Safety

Never leave a child alone in or near a swimming pool. Install a fence at least four feet high around all four sides of a pool. Make sure pool gates open out from the pool and are self-closing and self-locking with the latch at a height that small children can't reach. Avoid using inflatable swimming aids such as "floaties." They are not a substitute for approved life vests and can give children a false sense of security. Keep rescue equipment (a shepherd's hook – a long pole with a hook on the end – and life preserver) and a cordless telephone near the pool.

Lawn Mower Safety

It's not likely that the words "lawn mower" pop into your head when you think of summer fun. Unfortunately, mowing lawns is as much a part of summer activities as swimming. Always use a mower with controls which stop the mower from running, or at least stop the blade from spinning when you release the handle. Make sure you wear sturdy shoes and eye and ear protection while mowing. Pick up objects (stones, toys, etc.) from the yard before mowing to avoid injuries caused by flying objects. Don't pull the mower backward or mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary. If the lawn slopes, mow across the slope when using a walk behind mower. Children younger than 12 should not use a mower.

Regardless what activity you are involved in keep yourself well-hydrated (drink enough fluids so that you rarely feel thirsty) and apply a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or greater at least 30 minutes before going outside.

Helping Your Pet Through the Dog Days of Summer

Now that it is summer, pet owners need to be aware of the dangers their outside pets face. Dogs do love being outside; however, make sure that your dog has an adequate supply of fresh water and shade. Dogs and cats have a normal body temperature that is around 101 or 102 degrees which makes it very dangerous to leave pets outside during the hot part of the day. Your pet cannot sweat like a human and excessive exposure to heat can cause your pet to experience painful symptoms and in severe cases brain damage, stroke or death. Pets with dark hair or black skin, short muzzle, who are overweight, older, or in general poor health are at a higher risk of suffering heat exhaustion. If possible, keep your pet indoors when you are not home. The following tips should help keep your pet healthy and happy:

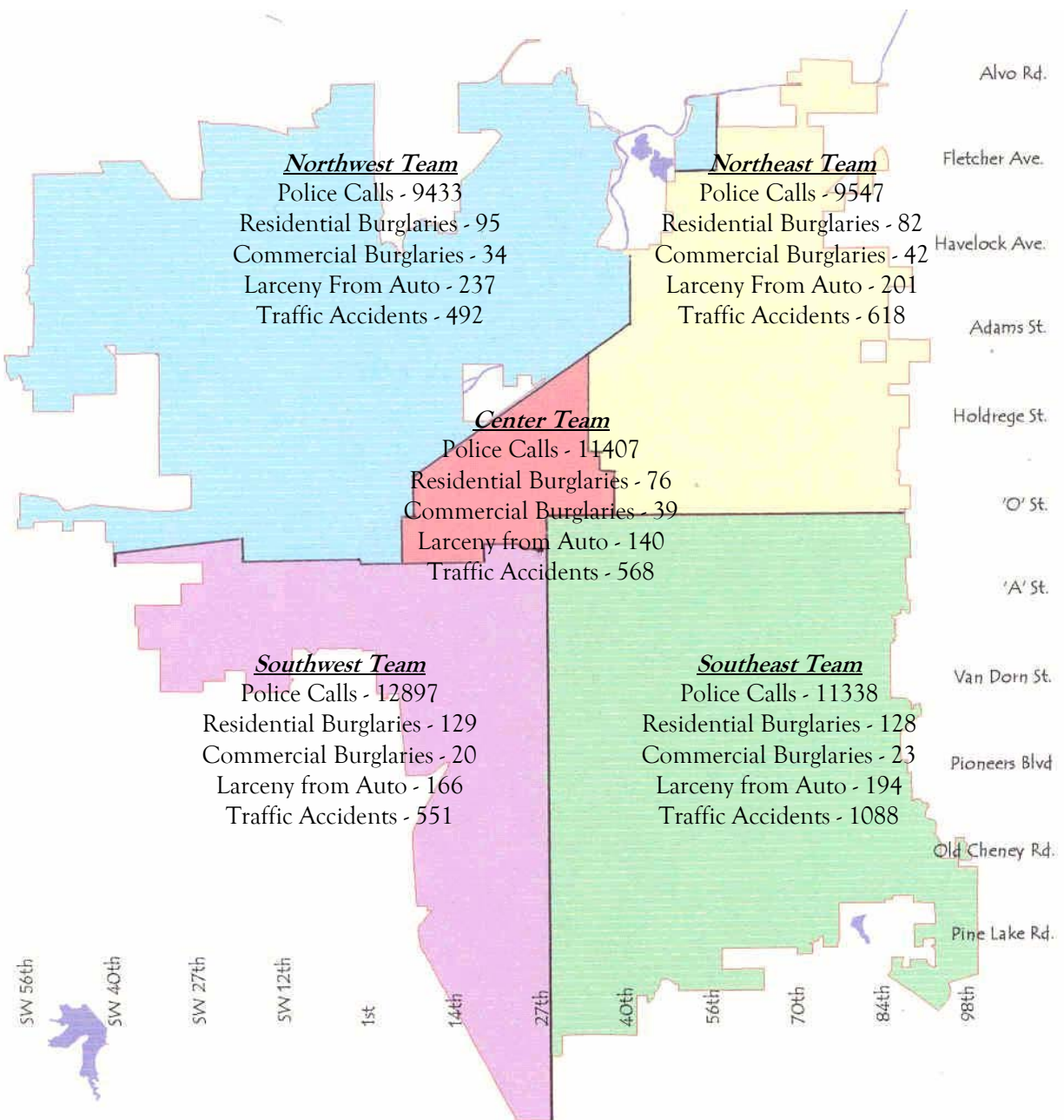


- ⊗ If you don't have shade trees, put a tarp over the kennel or pens for shade. A dog house can get hot inside and is not considered shade.
- ⊗ Provide a constant supply of fresh water that is easily accessible to your pet through out the day. Partially bury a bucket in the soil, put weights in the water container or fasten the bowl or bucket to the fence or post to prevent spilling. Your dog needs water to keep cool!
- ⊗ Many owners provide a small wading pool for their dogs to help them cool off. Change the water a minimum of every three days to prevent the spread of mosquitoes.
- ⊗ Kennel pens are the best method of confining dogs outside. It is illegal to use choke chain collars for tethering as they can choke a dog if it becomes hooked or tangled. When confining a dog by chain, it has to be at least 10' in length, but not allow the dog to leave the property on which it is tethered.
- ⊗ When walking your dog on a hot afternoon, be careful. Hot asphalt can easily burn a dog's paws. Consider taking the walk during the early morning hours or towards evening when it's cooler.
- ⊗ You may want to put some sun screen on your dog's nose and ear tips, especially if he is fair-haired. Contact your veterinarian for product information to help your dog deal with flies, fleas and ticks.
- ⊗ Never leave a pet in a hot car! On a hot summer day, the inside of a car heats up very quickly. On a 85 degree day, for example, the temperature inside your car even with the windows slightly open will reach 102 degrees in 10 minutes. In 30 minutes that temperature will rise to 120 degree! Keep in mind your dogs temperature is higher than yours and now he is breathing in hot air which interferes with his normal cooling process of evaporation through panting will cause his body temperature to rise. In a very short period of time your dog could suffer irreparable brain damage, heat stroke or even death. Don't leave your dog in a car. Leave him at home.
- ⊗ Do not put your pets in pick-up beds. First, serious injury can occur if your pet is struck by flying debris or is thrown out of the back of the truck. Second the metal floor of the pickup can become hot enough to burn their paws. Third, your dog may feel that he needs to protect your truck from any strangers who may approach it and may bite someone. Let your dog ride in the cab or leave him safely at home.
- ⊗ If you find that your pet is suffering a heat related illness: act quickly and immerse the pet in cool water (standard room temperature) not cold water, which could send the pet into shock. Apply ice packs to the neck and head and take the pet to your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Remember that your pets depend on you for their safe keeping and sometimes it's best to leave them at home. They will be happy to see you when you return. If you see a pet that does not have water or shade, call Animal Control at 441-7900 and give them the address of the pet and Animal Control will respond.

Kris K Johnson
Animal Control Education Officer

SUMMARY OF REPORTED CRIMES between 1-1-2006 and 5-31-2006



STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Through May of 2006 there have been 55,729 police calls for service across the city. This is 2.9% fewer calls for service than in the same time frame in 2005. The total number of residential burglaries for the city so far is 511, a 10.1% increase from the previous year. Larcenies from auto reports are down 37.9% compared to this same time period last year. As of the end of May 985 incidents of larceny from auto have been reported.

During the first five months of the year there have been 158 commercial burglaries reported. Compared to the same time period in 2005 that gives us a 39% decrease in business break-ins. Last year's January and February commercial burglary numbers were unusually high. The police department asks you to continue to pay attention to neighborhood businesses for any unusual people or occurrences and to call the police when you see any suspicious activities.

The "EYE"

Lincoln Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit
575 South 10th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

Return Service Requested

Nation Night Out 2006

The "23rd Annual National Night Out" has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 1, 2006. We cordially invite you and your neighbors to be part of the NIGHT OUT 2006 Team.

National Night Out is designed to: (1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) Generate support for , and participation in, local anticrime programs; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnership; and (4) Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

From 6 to 9 p.m. on August 1st, residents in neighborhoods throughout Lincoln and across the nation, are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. If you plan on hosting a meeting, block party or a cookout and you would like to have a police officer attend, call the Crime Prevention Unit at the Lincoln Police Department at 441-7261 or 441-6351 by the 24th of July. This will allow time to schedule officers to be at as many neighborhood events as possible.



Team Area Neighborhood Watch meetings for 2006

The following Neighborhood Watch Team Area meeting have been scheduled:

Southeast Team Area Meeting

September 11th, 2006 at 6 p.m.

Bryan Medical Plaza , 1500 S. 48th

Southwest Team Area Meeting

September 18th, 2006 at 7 p.m.

Bess D Walt Library, 6701 S 14th

Northwest Team Area Meeting

September 28th, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.

Loren C Eiseley Library, 1530 Superior

Meeting notice letters will be sent to group coordinators as a reminder approximately a month prior to the meeting.